

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4298

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 14967

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJ: BREZHNEV ON US-SOVIET DETENTE

REF: A. NEW DELHI 13921 B. NEW DELHI 13923

1. AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN HAS CAPTURED WELL THE FLAVOR OF THAT PORTION OF BREZHNEV'S SPEECH BEFORE PARLIAMENT IN NEW DELHI WHICH CONTAINS HIS FIRST DEFINITIVE EVALUATION OF US-SOVIET RELATIONS SINCE CRISIS WEEK OF LATE OCTOBER. BEFORE INSCRIBING BREZHNEV AS HONARAY MEMBER OF REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE, HOWEVER, WE WISH TO POINT OUT THAT HIS REMARKS ADDRESSED TO OPPONENTS OF DETENTE IN U.S. ARE QUITE SHARP BY STANDARDS OF PAST TWO YEARS. HE APPEARS TO REVISE UPWARD HIS ESITMATE OF THE ABILITY OF THESE UNIDENTIFED ELEMENTS TO IMPEDE (BUT NOT TO BLOCK) THE NEW RELATIONSHIP HE HAS IN MIND WITH THE U.S.

2. NEVERTHELESS, WE AGREE THAT PRIMAY SIGNIFICANCE OF SPEECH LIES IN BREZHNEV'S FIRM COMMITMENT TO PURSUIT OF DETENTE WITH U.S. AND HIS WILLINGNESS TO GIVE CREDIT TO U.S. LEADERSHIP (THE PRESIDENT IS NOT MENTIONED BY NAME) FOR REALISM AND FORESIGHT. IN
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PARTICULAR, BREZHNEV FIRMLY ENDORSES VIEWS PREVIOUSLY

EXPRESSED HERE AT LOWER LEVELS THAT US-SOVIET
DETENTE PREVENTED MIDDLE EAST CIRISIS FROM BECOMING
MUCH MORE DANGEROUS AND WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN CEASE-FIRE
AND SETTLEMENT EFFORTS.

3. BREZHNEV'S CHOICE OF INDIA AS THE PLATFORM FOR A
DEFENSE OF US-SOVIET DETENTE IS PROBABLY NOT
ACCIDENTAL, AS THE SOVIETS ARE FOND OF SAYING. WE
BELIEVE THAT SOVIETS HAVE BEEN REPEATEDLY STUNG BY
THIRD-WORLD CRITICISM OF GREAT POWER DETENTE, ESPECAILLY
AT THE ALGIERS NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE AND EVEN AT THE
MOSCOW CONGRESS OF PEACELOVING FORCES LAST MONTH.
HENCE THE EMPHASIS ON THE IDEA THAT DETENTE IS GOOD
FOR EVERYBODY.

4. THE BREZHNEV PARLIAMENT SPEECH IS CLEARLY THE MAJOR
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS PRONOUNCEMENT OF HIS TRIP, AND
HAS BEEN CARRIED IN FULL BY TASS ENGLISH. WE WILL BE
COMMENTING FURTHER ON ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY ASPECTS
WHEN INDO-SOVIET JOINT STATEMENT IS RELEASED.
DUBS

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